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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANTHONY J. JENKINS
ANNOUNCES THE ARRESTS OF THREE MEN
FOR POSSESSION OF COCAINE WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE**

Anthony J. Jenkins, U.S. Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands, today announced that three men were arrested and charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute.

On June 15, 2006, the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") received a call from Immigrations and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") that a suspicious vessel described as a blue colored vessel with two Yamaha outboard engines was en route from Culebra, PR to St. Thomas occupied with one dark skinned male, later identified as Francisco Perez-Polanco. Perez-Polanco acquired a room at the Island Beachcomber Hotel. Domiquite Mathurin was observed exiting a green Toyota 4-Runner driven by Dionicio Mercedes, and entering the hotel room occupied by Perez-

Polanco with a light colored plastic bag. Mathurin exited the hotel room a few minutes later without the bag. A few hours later, Mathurin was again observed exiting the green Toyota 4-Runner and carrying a dark colored plastic bag to the hotel room . Mathurin exited the room a few minutes later without the bag. Perez-Polanco exited the room carrying a small tan colored backpack. Both men entered the green Toyota 4-Runner and left the vicinity. DEA agents conducted a stop of the vehicle. A search of the vehicle led to the recovery of the small tan colored backpack which contained approximately two (2) kilograms of cocaine.

Perez-Polanco, Mathurin and Mercedes were taken into custody on June 15, 2006 by DEA agents and charged with Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Distribute. Perez-Polanco, 23 years old, is a U.S. citizen, born in St. Croix, who lives in Culebra, Puerto Rico. Mathurin, 31 years old, is a Haitian citizen. Mercedes is a U.S. citizen residing in St. Thomas. Mercedes was released on \$2,500 bail on Thursday, June 22, 2006. Perez-Polanco and Mathurin have been detained.

U.S. Attorney Jenkins reminds the public that an arrest is not evidence of guilt, and that, as in all criminal cases, the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in court.